

September 21, 1999

Patricia M. Puterbaugh
1540 Vilas Rd.
Cohasset, Ca. 95973

Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay/Delta Program
1416 9th St. #1155
Sacramento, CA. 95814

Dear Mr. Snow,

I am an RN living in the foothills above Chico, California. I am active in many local environmental groups and I would like my comments to be included in the EIS for the CALFED process.

Firstly, I would like to say that I am very appreciative of all your efforts to listen to and respect, every differing opinion you receive during this process. I attended the meeting in Chico, California and was unable to stay late enough to comment in person! There are obviously extremely diverse and divided ideas concerning this enormous project!

What is important though, is the future. This is what this project is all about. How do we manage our precious water resource in this beautiful state to benefit mankind in the century to come. Many people try to separate the animals and plants from mankind - but this is impossible. In the long run, if we do not respect the plants and animals we live on this earth with, man will be the "endangered species".

I work as hospice nurse in Butte County. I am very fearful of the accelerated use of chemicals in our environment. The millions of pounds of chemicals running off into our water is astounding. Farmers say they are stewards of the land, and in many cases this is true. But the heavy use of agricultural chemicals must become a focus point in the CALFED process. Agricultural water could be reused and recycled many times over if it was not so contaminated with heavy metals, salts and pesticides. As a nurse working with cancer patients, I cannot help but draw a correlation between the increase in cancer rates and chemicals.

I also would hope you will revise the Draft EIS to not commit to building any new or expanded dams, reservoirs, or canals during Stage I of the process. Many of the proposed offstream projects have already failed CALFEDs, initial review because of low water yield and poor economics. Why spend more money studying these projects and put the money into investments to increase water conservation and efficiency. I live in the foothills of Butte County. Every single creek in our watershed has a devastated headwater! Every single headwater spring in our watershed has been practically demolished by past logging practices. A very important investment would be to follow every stream in California to its source. Many, many of these creeks could be restored to create watersheds which hold and protect the rainfall - instead of allowing our water to rush downstream causing flooding and devastation in its wake. Private logging practices in California should also be looked at as part of the CALFED process to see how they contribute to our watershed problems. Logging and upstream development is consistently ignored and is "at the source" of many of our water problems.

I am against ground water transfers from our county. The ground water under this state belongs to the people. It is ludicrous to think that people are allowed to sell their groundwater while their neighbors or other people in the community suffer.

I am very pleased with much of the CALFED Draft EIS. I like the many areas where CALFED is attempting to take down dams and restore habitat. I am pleased with funding for meanderbelts and wildlife habitat. I wish you courage and wisdom in this difficult process. The future generations of Californians are counting on you!

Sincerely,



Patricia M. Puterbaugh